

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTe-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 LAB-04 SIL-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 267

UNCLAS MEXICO 8589

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, ELAB, MX

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: U.S. AIRLINES PREPARE FOR LABOR DISCUSSIONS

1. DISCUSSIONS ARE UNDERWAY BETWEEN EASTERN AIRLINES AND MEXICAN LABOR LEADERS FOR A NEW WAGE AGREEMENT TO REPLACE THE CURRENT AGREEMENT WHICH EXPIRES OCTOBER 1, 1975. EASTERN IS THE FIRST U.S. AIR CARRIER IN MEXICO TO ENTER NEGOTIATIONS THIS YEAR, AND REPORTS THAT DISCUSSIONS THIS YEAR ARE MORE MODERATE THAN IN PREVIOUS YEARS. ONLY SALARY IS BEING DISCUSSED, WITH LABOR REQUESTING A 25 PERCENT HIKE. MANAGEMENT EXPECTS TO SETTLE AT APPROXIMATELY 18 PERCENT (AS DID RECENTLY CUBANA AND AEROLINEAS ARGENTINAS), WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

2. OTHER U.S. AIRLINES ALSO EXPECT TO SETTLE NEAR THE 18 PERCENT FIGURE. SITUATION IS COMPLICATED FOR SOME AIRLINES, SUCH AS PAN AM, WHOSE ENTIRE CONTRACT IS UP FOR REVISION ON OCTOBER 31. THE UNION HAS REQUESTED A 22 PERCENT SALARY INCREASE BUT UP TO 200 PERCENT IN CERTAIN FRINGE BENEFITS. NEVERTHELESS, PAN AM HOPES FOR RELATIVELY CALM SETTLEMENT AT AROUND 16-18 PERCENT INCREASE.
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